

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

1. PSYCHOLOGICAL: THE RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ELECTION, WHERE THE RULING LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDP) LOST ABSOLUTE CONTROL OF THE LOWER HOUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER TWO DECADES, DOMINATED THE WEEK. THE MASS MEDIA, WHICH CORRECTLY PREDICTED THE OUTCOME, UNIFORMLY STRESSED THAT THE NATION WANTED A CHANGE FROM OLD POLITICANS AND FROM THE OLD WAY OF DOING THINGS -- AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE SCANDAL-RIDDEN LDP AND ITS INTRA-PARTY WARGLING. THE ELECTORATE, INCLUDING THE APPROXIMATELY SEVEN MILLION NEW VOTERS SINCE THE LAST ELECTION (1972), CORROBORATED THIS NOTION IN THE OVERHWLMING VICTORY OF THE NEW LIBERAL CLUB (NLC), COMPOSED MAINLY OF LDP SPLINTERS. ALTHOUGH THE LDP WAS DEALT A SEVERE BLOW, IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT NATIONAL SENTIMENT DID NOT OPT FOR A RADICAL CHANGE. RATHER, THE RISE OF MIDDLE-OF-THE ROAD PARTIES LIKE THE NLC, THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY(DSP), THE INDEPENDENTS, AND THE RENOVATIONIST KOMEI PARTY SEEMS TO INDICATE THE NEW DIRECTION OF POLITICS IN JAPAN.

THE LOSS OF ABSOLUTE CONTROL AND THE IMPENDING RESIGNATION OF PRIME MINISTER MIKI (ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS PARTY'S FAILURE) HAVE LEFT THE LDP IN A STATE OF WHAT MAY BEST BE

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CHARACTERIZED AS "CALM RESIGNATION." AALONG WITH A COALITION OF

INDEPENDENTS, THE LDP WILL STILL ADMINISTER THE NATION'S AFFAIRS. MOST PEOPLE SEEM TO BE WAITING NOW TO SEE IF THE LDP HAS LEARNED ANYTHING FROM THEIR SETBACK.

2. PROGRAM:

A. RENE DUBOS, ROCKEFELLER UNIV. PROFESSOR EMERITUS, ADDRESSED OVER 100 PARTICIPANTS AT TOKYO AMERICAN CENTER AND NEARLY THAT NUMBER AT OSAKA AMERICAN CENTER ON "ADAPTIONS TO THE FUTURE." HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR ADAPTING TO THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT WHILE CONTROLLING TECHNOLOGY TO ACHIEVE BALANCE BETWEEN MAN AND THAT ENVIRONMENT AND THE POSSIBILITY OF ITS RESTORATION, MINIMIZING USE OF FINITE RESOURCES, AND DEVELOPING NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS. THE QUESTION PERIODS, WHICH CONTINUED BEYOND SCHEDULED TIME, WERE LIVELY WITH SERIOUS CONCERN FOR ENERGY PROBLEMS AND SOCIETIES ADAPTING TO THE FUTURE.

B. SAPPORO AC PROGRAMMED VOLSPKR GUNTER DUFEEY OF UNIV. OF MICHIGAN AT OTARU COMMERCIAL UNIV. WHERE HE SPOKE ON "RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL MONEY AND CAPITAL MARKETS." DUFEEY WAS EFFECTIVE IN HIS PRESENTATION OF HIS SUBJECT, EMPHASIZING THE RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP OF THE U.S. IN STABILIZING INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SITUATION. UNFORTUNATELY LEADING PROFESSORS WERE NOT AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE AT THIS TIME. OSAKA AC CO-SPONSORED A PROGRAM FOR DUFEEY WITH KANSAI ECONOMIC RESEARCH CENTER OF KANKEIREN ON "CURRENT TRENDS IN THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM," MODERATED BY SHOTARO MIYANO OF KANKEIREN. ALTHOUGH AUDIENCE WAS SMALL, THERE WERE ASAHI SHIMBUN ECONOMIC REPORTER AND IMPORTANT BUSINESS LEADERS IN ATTENDANCE. DUFEEY'S COMMENTS WERE SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. OBJECTIVES, WITH THE Q AND A SESSION LIVELY AND SOPHISTICATED.

C. WILLIAM BARNDT, SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW AT COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, DISCUSSED SITUATIONS AND PROSPECTS FOR NORTHEAST ASIA BEFORE EDITORS OF LEADING NEWSPAPERS AND NHK AT PAO HOUSE ON DEC. 8. DISCUSSION WAS LIVELY WITH MOST OF JAPANESE SENTIMENT AGAINST EARLY OR PRECIPITIOUS U.S. TROOP REMOVAL FROM KOREA.

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D. BARBARA WATSON, FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR FOR SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS, DISCUSSED "WHAT AMERICA IS ALL ABOUT - ROLE OF BLACKS IN U.S. SOCIETY" - AT TOKYO AMERICAN CENTER. SHE PRESENTED THE VIEW OF AMERICAN SOCIETY WITH A FRONTIER SPIRIT, FREEDOM AND EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW, AND PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZED TREMENDOUS ADVANCEMENT AND INTEGRATION OF BLACKS IN THE SOCIETY.

E. THE KYOTO AC AND THE NATIONAL MUSEUM JOINTLY SPONSORED A LECTURE AND PERFORMANCE OF CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN MUSIC AT THE MUSEUM IN CONJUNCTION WITH EXHIBITION, MASTERPIECES OF WORLD ART FROM AMERICAN MUSEUMS. MUSIC CRITIC AND LECTURER FROM TOKYO ZOKEI DAIGAKU, KUNIHARU AKIYAMA DISCUSSED RECENT TRENDS IN AMERICAN MUSIC BEFORE, AFTER AND BETWEEN COMPOSITIONS OF CAGE, COWELL, REICH, AND BECKER PERFORMED BY EIGHT JAPANESE MUSICIANS. OF THE MORE THAN 300 ATTENDEES, OVER 1/3 WERE IN ARS. NOT ONLY WAS THE AUDIENCE ENTHUSIASTIC BUT THE EVENT MADE THE NHK EVENING NEWS.

F. PROF. EMERITUS CHARLES ANDERSON WAS CO-SPONSORED BY DOSHISAH UNIV. FACULTY OF LETTERS, IN KHOTO WHERE HE SPLKE ON "HOW SHOULD NOVELS END?" HE GAVE TWO PRESENTATIONS ON "WHAT MAKES AMERICAN LITERATURE AMERICAN?" AT SHIMANE UNIV. AS WELL. ANDERSON WAS ALSO PROGRAMMED AT FUKUOKA AC, WHERE HE DELIVERED A TALK ON THE LATTER SUBJECT.

HIS APPROACH IS CONVENTIONAL, ACADEMIC, AND PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE TO OLDER GROUPS. ALTHOUGH HIS RANGE IS WIDE, HE DEALS PRIMARILY WITH LITERATURE PRIOR TO 1950.

G. IKUO ATSUMI: POET AND ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AT AOYAMA GAKUIN UNIV. SPOKE AT TOKYO AC TO A GROUP OF PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE, JOURNALISTS AND ARTISTS ABOUT THE CULTURAL CHANGE AMERICAN WOMEN POETS ARE CAUSING. SHE FOCUSSED ON POETS AS THE VANGUARD OF ANY IMPORTANT CULTURAL MOVEMENT AND DISCUSSED LEADING WRITERS WITH A FEMINIST CONSCIOUSNESS, WHAT THEY WERE ATTEMPTING, AND HOW THEIR LIVES INFLUENCED THEIR CURRENT ATTITUDES. COMPLEMENTING THE LECTURE AND POETRY READING WAS AN EXHIBIT OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF 20 SUCH POETS.

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H. IN HIS TALK "PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY SYSTEMS" AT TOKYO AMERICAN CENTER, ERDA SCIENCE DIRECTOR WILLIAM W. HENOCHE DISCUSSED ERDA'S VARIOUS PROJECTS IN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES. THE UNEXPECTEDLY LARGE AUDIENCE OF 82 - 80 PERCENT ARS MEMBERS--AND THE CONCRETE QUESTIONS RAISED IN DISCUSSION SESSION ARE A BAROMETER OF JAPANESE INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT.

I. ARTS PROGRAMMING: HOKKAIDO MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS DIRECTOR SAID SAPPORO AC'S THREE-WEEK BICENTENNIAL QUILT SHOW AT THE MUSEUM BROUGHT A RANGE OF VIEWERS BROADER THAN THEY HAD HAD FOR ANY PREVIOUS EXHIBITION.

OSAKA AC CONTRIBUTED SIX FILMS TO A SERIES OF 10 ART FILMS

SHOWN AT OSAKA UNIV. OF ARTS. THE REMAINING FOUR WERE PROVIDED BY OSAKA GOETHE INSTITUTE. FORTY PERCENT OF THE AUDIENCE VOTED OAC'S "NIK" THE BEST FILM SHOW. BECAUSE OF THE JAPANESE SOUND TRACKS, ALMOST ALL OAC FILMS OUTRATED THEIR COMPETITION.

3. MEDIA SERVICING:

FISHERIES: ANOTHER TAKESHI HARA ARTICLE ABOUT PATROLLING THE NORTHERN SEA FISHING GROUND APPEARS IN THE DECEMBER 12 ISSUE OF SUNDAY MAINICHI. THIS 9-PAGE PICTURE STORY DESCRIBES JAPANESE VESSELS' OPERATIONS IN THE AREA AND REPORTS CRITICAL COMMENTS BY U.S. FISHERMEN WHO ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT PRESERVATION OF RESOURCES THAN ARE JAPANESE.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS MAGAZINE SEKAI SHUHO CARRIED A TEN-PAGE TRANSLATION OF AN ARTICLE BY COMMERCE DEPT'S FRANK FUKUHARA, WHICH REVIEWED FISHING PATTERNS BY FOREIGN FISHERMEN IN THE AREA AND ANALYSIS OF FISHERY RESOURCES.

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